



WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

APRIL 2025

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

—Margaret Atwood



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President's Message

Welcome to the latest issue of *Wavies & Curlies*. Spring is here, the days are getting longer and warmer, and we are getting ready for water season, supported entries, and our annual picnic. We start off the season with our first supported entry with sweepstakes in Lodi at the Sacramento Kennel Club show on April 12. We are offering trophies for Obedience, Rally and Conformation.

On April 13, we have our dry land water workshop. This is the best workshop to get some great advice and training tips for those interested in getting their pups ready for water, and we also have George Ziemba's article in this issue to inspire you! Water practice will start mid May at Rancho Seco (due to algae outbreaks and golden mussel at other water sites). May 31 will be our annual picnic and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

As always, we are seeking volunteers to help out at our various events, and we are in need of a couple Nominating Committee volunteers to put together our 2026 slate. Please let committee chairs or the Board of Directors know if you are interested in volunteering.

Please see the club calendar for scheduled events throughout the year. If you would like to add an event to our calendar that you are passionate about or would like to learn more about, please reach out to any of our Board of Directors or committee chairs. We are always looking for new volunteers and new ideas.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events—until then,

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Obrigada,

Becky Morin



Becky and Sayyida

Check the Club's [web calendar](#) for most current event information, as dates, times, locations, events, and contacts may change. Our website is always current.

For calendar questions, contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are currently signing up volunteers to work our various events, and we need volunteers to serve on our Nominating Committee. We are a large and active club, and we always need willing hands to help at events, chair programs, or foster a dog in need. If you're interested in volunteering for any positions or activities, or would like to learn more, contact the appropriate committee chair, or any board member (see [page 28](#) for contacts).

2025 PWDCNC Calendar

Check the Club's [web calendar](#) for most current information, as dates, times, locations, events, and contacts may change. Our website is always current. For calendar questions, contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.

April

April 13: Introduction to Water Work: Dry Dock Workshop 8AM-2PM.
Tailored Dog Training, 4475 Treat Blvd, Suite "K", Concord, CA
Get ready for summer and water work season!
Workshop registration deadline Weds, April 9, 2025, 6 PM.
Visit <https://pawdcnc.org/event/introduction-to-water-work-dry-dock-workshop/> for more information and to sign up.

May

May 21 [tentative]: Water Practice starts
Rancho Seco. Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.com.

May 31 [tentative]: Annual Picnic, 11:30AM-3PM. Get your dog (and you) in the water!
Water activities, both in water and on dry land.
China Camp Point Picnic Area, 1898 N San Pedro Rd, San Rafael, CA, along San Pablo Bay shoreline.
General Membership meeting at 12:15.
Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com.

July

July 5 & 6: PWDCNC All Breed FCAT trials
Manzanita Sports Complex, Manzanita Park, 17100 Castroville Blvd, Prunedale, CA
Enter at abbadogs.com. Contact Janis Welsh at janis@ahpmlc.com.

July 12-14: Del Monte Kennel Club dog show
Carmel Middle School, 4380 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
PWDCNC Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally on Sat 7/12
Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com or Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

August

August 8-10: PWDCNC All Breed Agility trials
Manzanita Park, 17100 Castroville Blvd, Prunedale, CA
Enter at abbadogs.com. Contact Leslie Holt at leslieholt@gmail.com or Debbie Price at debbie@ptownprices.

August 21-29: PWDCA National Specialty
Purina Farms, 500 William Danforth Way, Gray Summit, MO
Contact info@pawdcans.org. See website at <https://pawdcans.org/>.

October

October 3-5: PWDCNC Water trials
Rancho Seco. Judge will be Amanda Ford.
Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.com.

October 16-19: Harvest Moon Classic, Del Valle Kennel Club dog show
Sonoma County Event Center & Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA
PWDCNC Supported Entry for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally on Sat 10/18 Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com or Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com.

November

November 7: PWDCNC Regional Specialty, including General Membership Meeting
Napa Valley Exposition 575 Third Street (Third St and Silverado Trail), Napa, CA
Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com or Becky Morin at Detoraq@hotmail.com

November 22-24: PWDCNC-hosted Three-day Agility Trials
Rancho Murieta, CA
Enter at abbadogs.com Contact Leslie Holt at leslieholt@gmail.com or
Debbie Price at debbie@ptownprices

December

December 15: PWDCNC-hosted AKC Scent Work trial
Dream Big Training Facility, 19681 Brandt Road, Lodi, CA
Contact Ann Gaskell at Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com



December 2024 Scent Work Trial

Report by Ann Gaskell, Trial Chair

Our annual Scent Work trial was held December 15, 2024 at Dream Big Training facility in Lodi. We had good weather and an outstanding turnout of PWDs and other breeds. The maximum number of entries was 300, and we filled all of them. Thank you to our judges, Lisa Kretner, Suzanne Edholm and Dee Dee Anderson. The help of our wonderful members and volunteers enabled our trial to run smoothly, efficiently and seamlessly. Thank you to our awesome volunteers!

We had 20 club members enter 27 dogs. PWD trial qualifiers are listed below.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Call Name</u>	<u>Owner</u>
<u>Container Novice A</u>		
2	Moondancer	Rebecca Morin
<u>Container Novice B</u>		
2	Asia	Sue Bloom
3	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
Q	Pirah	Ally Lantis & Eli Lantis
<u>Container Advanced</u>		
1	Chill E	Judy Berger
2	Sayyida	Rebecca Morin
4	Kayce	Judy Berger
Q	Ziva	Stacy Roth
Q	Shelly	Ann Benninger
<u>Container Excellent</u>		
1	Potter	Linda Hanson
3	Gyro	Sherry Hanen
Q	Greta	Kathy Souza
Q	Keanu	Pamela Marcus
<u>Interior Novice A</u>		
3	Guster	Joanne Osburn
4	Bobbi	Jenna Bullis
<u>Interior Novice B</u>		
4	Asia	Sue Bloom
Q	Briza	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Oliver	Lisa Mackenzie



Scent Work Trial Results (cont'd)

Place Call Name Owner

Interior Advanced

1	Chill E	Judy Berger
2	Shelly	Ann Benninger
Q	Sayyida	Rebecca Morin
Q	Fig	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Kayce	Judy Berger
Q	Ziva	Stacy Roth
Q	Mercedes	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Mika	Pamela Wong

Interior Excellent

3	Potter	Linda Hanson
Q	Gyro	Sherry Hanen
Q	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
Q	Keanu	Pamela Marcus
Q	Greta	Kathy Souza

Exterior Novice A

3	Guster	Joanne Osburn
4	Tess	Rebecca Morin
Q	Bobbi	Jenna Bullis
Q	Chica	Diana Bailey
Q	Winnie	Kathy Souza

Exterior Novice B

Q	Briza	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
Q	Pirah	Ally Lantis & Eli Lantis
Q	Asia	Sue Bloom
Q	Oliver	Lisa Mackenzie

Exterior Advanced

2	Shelly	Ann Benninger
4	Brisa	Diana Bailey

Place Call Name Owner

Exterior Advanced (cont'd)

Q	Fig	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Ziva	Stacy Roth
Q	Chill E	Judy Berger
Q	Kayce	Judy Berger

Exterior Excellent

1	Potter	Linda Hanson
2	Greta	Kathy Souza
3	Teddy	Ann Gaskell

Buried Novice A

Q	Guster	Joanne Osburn
Q	Tess	Rebecca Morin
Q	Bobbi	Jenna Bullis

Buried Novice B

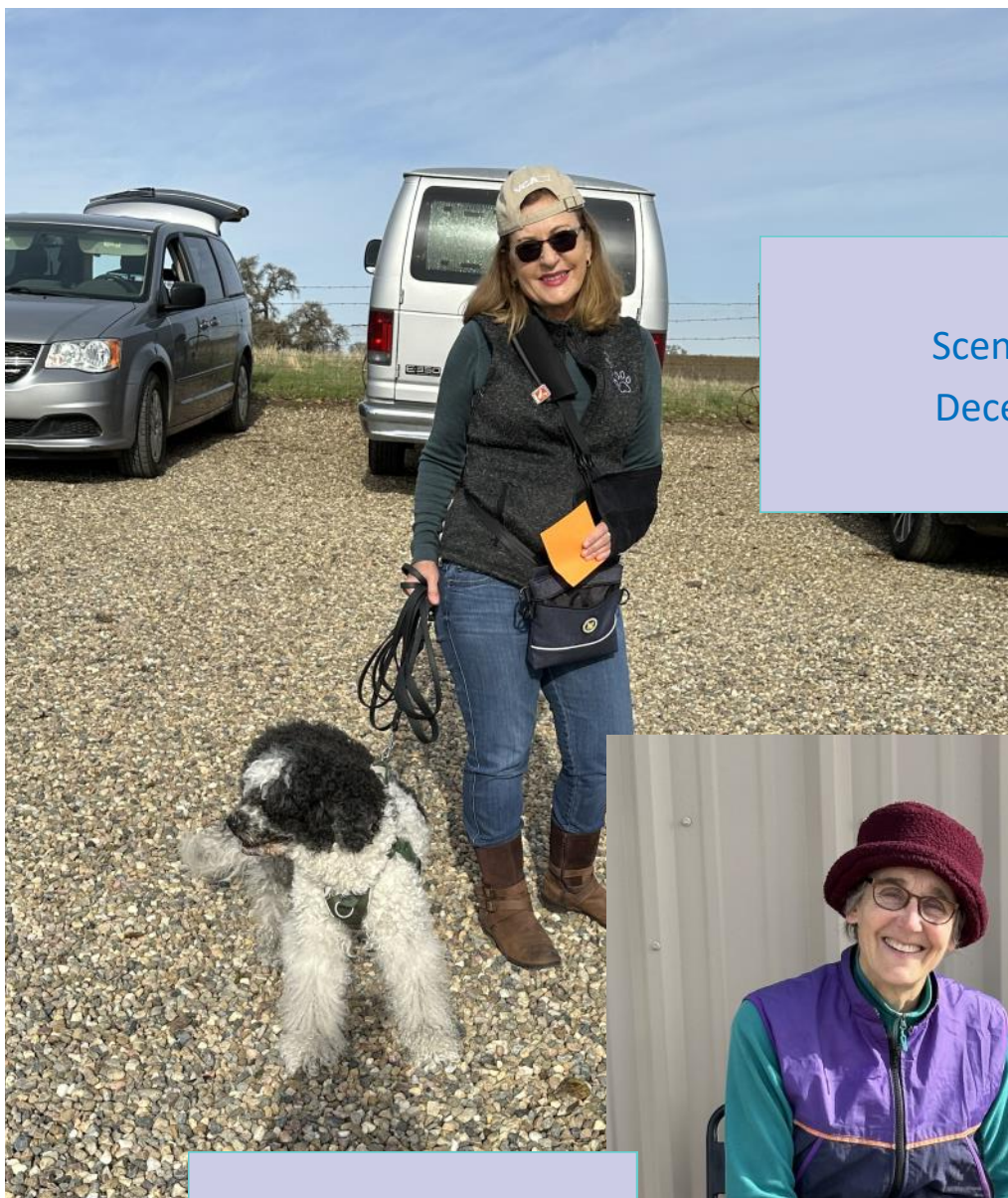
2	Oliver	Lisa Mackenzie
3	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
Q	12 Briza	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Asia	Sue Bloom
Q	Pirah	Ally Lantis & Eli Lantis

Buried Advanced

1	Chill E	Judy Berger
2	Sayyida	Rebecca Morin
3	Fig	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
4	Teddy	Ann Gaskell
Q	Kayce	Judy Berger
Q	Mercedes	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen
Q	Mika	Pamela Wong
Q	Shelly	Ann Benninger

Buried Excellent

1	Potter	Linda Hanson
Q	Greta	Kathy Souza
Q	Keanu	Pamela Marcus



Scent Work Trial
December 2024

Above: Stacy Roth and Ziva

Right: Ann Benninger and Shelly

Photos by Ann Gaskell

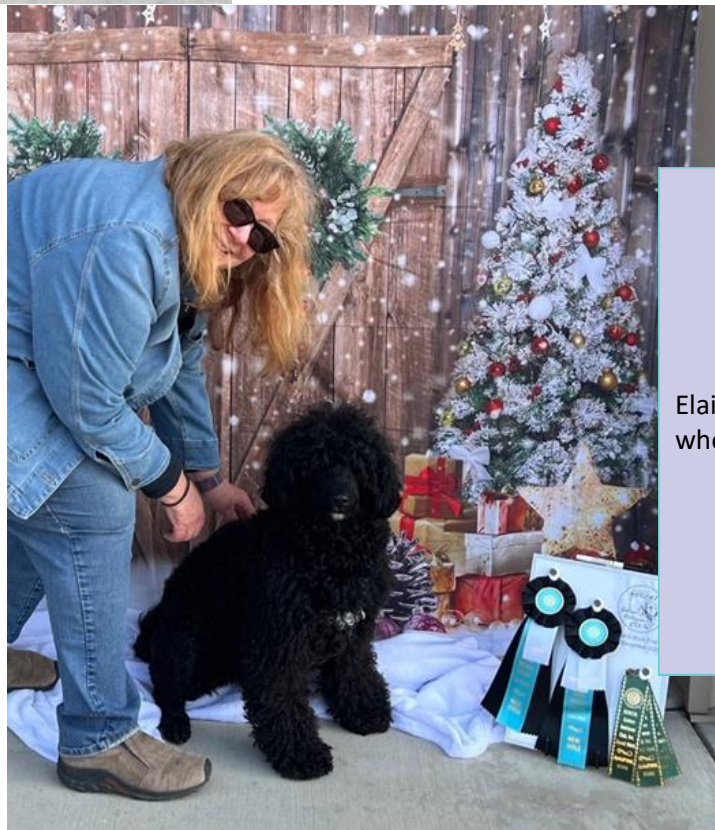


Scent Work Trial
December 2024



Chris and Elaine
Rasmussen with Fig
(left) and Mercedes,
enjoying their
achievements

Photos courtesy of
Elaine Rasmussen



Elaine and Briza,
who did great!

Scent Work Trial December 2024



Photos courtesy of
Becky Morin



Clockwise from left:
Moondancer, Sayyida,
and Tess Morin
celebrate their noses!

PWDCNC Annual General Membership Meeting

Minutes by Ally Lantis, Recording Secretary

The Annual General Membership meeting took place on 3/18/25, over Zoom. It was called to order at 7:22pm by Becky Morin.

In attendance:

Board members and Directors: Becky Morin, Kathy Souza, Ally Lantis, Elaine Rasmussen, Debbie Price, Ann Gaskell

General membership members: Don Niemann, Frank Dietrich, Linda Kelly, Laura Wilson, Alan Teague, Barbara Niemann, Julie Conger, Karen Widden Martinez, Anne Benninger, Sue Nelson, Kris Thompson, Chris Rasmussen, Sherry Hanen

Agenda:

Welcome

Election of Officers and Directors

Officer reports

Introduction of charter members in attendance: Becky Morin, Sherry Hanen, Kris Thompson

Past presidents in attendance: Ann Gaskell, Sherry Hanen, Linda Kelly, Sue Nelson, Elaine Rasmussen

Nominating committee for next year (2026): Ann Gaskell, Karen Widden, Kris Thompson

Certificates of Titles 2024

Rainbow bridge:

Rafa, nearly 12 years old belonging to Don and Barbara Niemann. He loved water and scentwork! Fantastic performance dog and loving

Variatos, 9 years old belonging to Becky Morin. Enjoyed performance and was a fantastic obedience, scentwork dog and loving companion.

Rolex, nearly 10 years old belonging to Ann Benninger

Jack, 9 years old belonging to Janis Welsh

Ukko, nearly 15 years old belonging to Alan Teague

Ancient Mariners:

Apollo, 15, belonging to Judy Knorr

Jayna, nearly 16, belonging to Becky Morin

Any new business.

Events coming up: See website

1. Approval of previous minutes: Ann Gaskell makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Feb 25th 2024. Seconded Elaine Rasmussen. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Officers and Directors:

2024-2025:

President: Becky Morin

Vice President: Kathy Souza

Treasurer: Janis Welsh

Recording Secretary: Ally Lantis

Corresponding Secretary: Lisa MacKenzie

Immediate Past President: Bill Waters

Directors: Elaine Rasmussen, Debbie Price, Ann Gaskell, Judy Knorr

2025-2026: Slate remains the same as 2024-25. No new names submitted by nomination committee.

Kathy moved that we accept the slate, seconded by Ann Gaskell; slate unanimously voted in.

3. Officer Reports:

President's Report – None

Vice President's Report – None

Recording Secretary's Report – None

Treasurer Report – See Board Meeting minutes on club website

Corresponding Secretary Report – None

Committee Reports

A. Breeder Referral List – Kathy Souza interim

B. Rescue – Julie Conger- No report

C. Health and Education – Julie Conger - No report

D. Membership – Debbie Price – No report

E. Policy and Procedure – Carole Corbett - No report

F. *Wavies & Curlies* –Cheri Ross – No report

G. Regional Specialty – Becky Morin, Ann Gaskell, Sherry Hanen, Elaine Rasmussen, and Janis Welsh– No report

H. Conformation – Becky Morin – No report

I. Agility – Leslie Holt and Debbie Price – No report

J. Obedience and Rally – Ann Gaskell and Anne Paterson – No report

K. Junior Showmanship – Ally Lantis – No report

L. FCAT – Janis Welsh – See below

M. Water Work – Kathy Souza – No report

N. Scent Work – Kathy Souza – No report

O. Programs and Calendar – No report

3.L. FastCat Report March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025

July 13 – 14, 2024 PWDNCN hosted 4 FCAT trials over 2 days at Manzanita Park, Prunedale,

CA. Our trial secretary was Abba Dogs.

The previous year (2023) at similar trials we earned \$2575.00. This past year (2024) we only earned \$637.10. The significant difference was lower entries (there are now MANY shows offering FCAT in northern California so entries are diluted) and higher expenses such as lure operator hotel rooms, gas and park rental. Additionally, speculation that many dogs have earned their FCAT titles so don't participate anymore, and overall agility entries are lower bringing fewer dogs to the event.

2025 FCAT: July 5 – 6, Manzanita Park, Prunedale

Entries at Abbadogs.com

Volunteers always needed!

Please thank the committee who helped last year: Susan and Carl Craig, Leslie and Jim Holt, Lew and Casey Ingram , Ann Gaskell, Sherry Hanen & Chris Welsh

Adjournment at 8:11pm by Becky Morin

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2024

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
IABCA Int'l CH AKC CH Boardwalk River Song To Sealsle RI SWNE SWE SCM SEM DJ CGCA FTI TKA VHMA JWD AWD ELT-CH L3I L2V L2E L2C SROM	Rivah	Kathy Souza	FTN, FTI, AWD, BROM, SROM
CH Sealsle The Divine Garbo SWNE SWA SCE CGCA TKI VHMA VSMI NW3 Elite L2V L2C L1E L2I	Greta	Kathy Souza	FTN, RN, FTI, BN, SIE, SEE, SBE, SWE, NACSW, Elite 1. Elite 2
IABCA Nat'l SR Int'l SR Honors SR CH Toraq's Elemental Magic at Sealsle	Winnie	Kathy Souza & Becky Morin	TKI, CGC, IABCA, Nat'l SR CH, IABCA Int'l CH, IABCA Honors SR CH
Sealsle Lady Lindy CGC FTR WWDX	Cabby	George Ziemba & Kathy Souza	AWD, WWD, WWDX, FTA, FTR
CH Sealsle Midnight SWN SIA SEA SBA CGC TKN NW1 L1C L1I	Mika	Pam Wong, Jonathan Wong, Kathy Souza	SEN, SEA, NACSW NW1, L1C, L1I
GCHB Sealsle Doctor Who Dat Pepper CGC TKI	Pepper	Cheri Ross, Tim Lenoir, Kathy Souza	CGC, TKN, TKI
Sealsle Waters of Mars SCN, SCA, NW1	Rio	Marilyn Finn	SCN, SCA, NACSW NW1
GCH CH Mercedes do Lusiadas BN RN SWN SCA SIA CGC AWD	Mercedes	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen	SWN, SCA, SIA
CH Aviators Figaro D'Avida BN RI SWN SIA SEA CGCA TKN	Fig	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen	AWD, SEN SIA, SEA
CH Avida's Fine Breeze And Following Seas BN RI SWN CGC WWDX	Briza	Elaine & Chris Rasmussen	CH, WWD, WWDX, SWN
Rustyco Ziva Light of God SCN SIN SEN	Ziva	Stacy Roth	SCN, SIN, SEN
MACH Surfdogs Jazzy Voyager CD BN RA MXB MJS MFB T2B3 CGC TKN FTN	Jazzy	Nancy Gills	MACH
CH Afortunado California Rollin' BN RE SEN CGCA TKP VHMA DS JWD AWD	Nori	Eli Lantis	SWN, AWD
Water's Edge Final Cut RN SCN SBN CGCA TKA RATI JWD AWD	Pirah	Ally Lantis	SCN, SBN, AWD
GCH Crosswinds Reign of Nimbus BN RM FDC BCAT SCN SIN SEN CGCA CGCU TKE ATT VHMA FTN RATI JWD AWD	Nimbus	Ally Lantis	FTN
CH Seashell's More Dan Diamonds More Dan Gold CGC TKN	Sia	Michael and Nan Fa	CH, TKN, CGC
Seashell's Everybody Wants To Be ME CGC	Bela	Michael and Nan Fa	CGC
CH Toraq N'Legado's Gyro De Pirate's Cove BN RI SWE SCNE NW2 CGC TKN FTI AWD	Gyro	Sherry Hanen	SCE, SBE, SIE, SEE, SWE, NACSW NW1, NW2, AWD, RI, FTI

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2024 (cont'd)

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
CH Chien D'Eau No Shrinking Violet CD BN RE OA OAJ OF FCAT SWA SCE FTR WWDX NF DCAT SWN SEA BCAT DCAT	Violet	Janis Welsh	SBN, SWN, SIA, SCA, SEA, SBA, SWA, SCE, RE, FCAT, FTR, FTN, FTI, FTA
CH Peja My Radiant Spirit Asia Blue BN RE FDC SWN CGCA CGCU TKE ATT	Asia	Sue Bloom & Peggy Thomas	SWN, SCN, SBN, SIN, SEN, Canine Per- formance Events C-ATE, ExJP, ExFH, ExCO ExST, ExSN, NACSW ORT
Dacher's Island Perfect Summer Nite BN RI NAP NJP NFP CGC TKN	Summer	John Parks	NA, NAJP, NF, TKN, BN, RI
Esquire's Ripple Effect in Baypoint RN, MXB, MJB, MWD 2	Beau	Carl and Susan Craig	MXB, MJB, MWD 2
CH Saltwater One In A Zillion Of Roseknoll RA NAP OJP OFP OAP CGC TKN	Zilli	Christa Diamant	OA, CH
Baywood WaterWave You're Breathtaking! CD RI SWA WWD	Keanu	Pamela Marcus	SCN, SBN, SIN, SEN, SWN, SCA, SBA, SIA, SEA, SWA, CD, RI, NACSW ORT, L1C, L1I, L1V, L1E, NW1
CH Legado Trovao De Ashbe FTN	Winston	Linda Kelly	FTN
Cortereal Just One of the Girls VCD2 UD RE TDX AXJ MJP OF SWA SEAE SHDA RATN MWD GROM	Ramona	Barbara and Don Niemann	SDHA
GCHG Odysea It's Always Sonny at Surfari	Sonny	Charles McCallum	GCHG
GCH CH Agua Dulce's Tusind Tak CD BN RM RAE TD BCAT SWAE SHDEE SHDM CGCA TKN	Teddy	Ann Gaskell	SBNE, SWNE, SWAE, SCAE, SBAE, SHDE, RM, RAE, BCAT, FTN, FTI
CH Avida's Sebastiano Del Mare WWD, RI, CGC, TKI	Tiano	Carol and Dominick Amadeo	???
Claircreek Princesa Marina De Tobias RE CGC TKI	Marina	Margaret and Frank Dietrich	RN, RI, RA, RE
GCHB CH Chien D'Eau Tobias De Remis RE CGC TKA BN-V CD-V	Toby	Margaret and Frank Dietrich	CD-V
GCH CH Toraq's Tribute To The Midnight Sun CGC	Moondanc- er	Rebecca Morin	GCH
CH Toraq's Queen Of The Deep Blue CGC JWD AWD	Tess	Rebecca Morin	AWD
GCHB CH Rough Seas' Viriatos De Toraq CD GN RE SWA SCE SEE FTI NW2 CGCA TKI BROM	Viriatos	Rebecca Morin	GN, RE, FTN, FTI, BROM

PWDCNC Titles Earned in 2024 (cont'd)

Dog Name	Call Name	Owner	Titles
GCH CH Toraq's Sayyida Al Hurra De Pirate's Cove BN SWN SEA SIA SCA L1I AWD CGC FTI TKN BROM, SROM	Sayyida	Rebecca Morin	SCN, SBN, SWN, NACSW L1I SCA, SIA, SEA, AWD, FTN, FTI, BROM, SROM
CH Aquatass Starlight TKN FTN CGC	Ivy	Deborah Price	CH, TKN, CGC, FTN
GCH CH Surfari's Holy Cow! RN TKI CGC	Wrigley	Deborah Price	GCH, TKI, RN
CH Asta's Arctic Nytesky At Aquatass CGC	Skylar	Deborah Price	CH



Get Your Dog an Easy Water Title

George Ziemba

Our PWDs were bred to work on boats and in the water. Some of you may have come to a water trial to see the sport. Everyone encourages you to stay for the Courier and Masters levels. It's amazing to see what the dogs can achieve there. What's missing is the build up at Junior, Apprentice and Working levels. While many humans don't have the time to invest to train a Courier dog, the earlier levels can be done mostly at home with a couple of half day visits to water practice. The tasks are really retrieves, stays and heels. A dog with these skills is also a better family member so it makes sense to train them.

Junior Water Dog title requires four exercises:

Retrieve dummy from shore. The dog is held by the harness, dummy is thrown at least 25 feet out in the water and the dog is commanded to retrieve. Success is getting the dummy back to within one or two steps of the owner. Teach a fetch and add distance on dry land. Water does make every task harder so a 25 foot plus retrieve needs at least a 50 foot or more retrieve on land. Can your dog do a 50 foot retrieve?

Boat ride with handler. Teach your dog to climb on a park picnic table and sit beside you. Vary the type of sit equipment. Any slightly elevated flat surface that both of you can sit on will do. I've been thrown out of Home Depot several times for using the rug pile and the sheet rock pile. The ride does add people beside the boat, movement and mild rocking. Its only about ten feet of out and back boat movement. Having your dog stay with you makes them a better citizen and family member with or without water work.

Call dog from shore to boat. This is a simple recall exercise. Dog is held by the harness on shore while you are rowed out 60 feet away. Upon judges command you call the dog and it's released. If you don't have a solid recall, your dog is in possible danger any time you drop a leash or open a car or house door. This one is a potential lifesaver.

Timed swim with handler. This is really a simple heeling exercise. Upon judge's command the two of you enter the water, and when the dog reaches its swimming depth the judge starts a one minute timer. Nearing the end of the sixty seconds of your dog swimming the judge says come in and the two of you together exit the water. YOU don't have to swim at all!

So a basic retrieve, a stay (with the dog held by a volunteer), a recall, and a heel will get your dog their first water title. All that can readily be taught on dry land adding distance, duration and distraction to prepare for water trialing. Keep in mind water is one of the biggest distractions.

Come to two water practices taking a half day each and you'll find lots of guidance and help to make it fun for you and your dog. But come with your dog prepared. One of the greatest mistakes I've seen in water work is a lack of fundamentals.

The equipment is almost any dummy/bumper article, a harness for your dog, treats for all the training, life-jacket and closed toed shoes for you. Any running shoe works. If you don't want to invest in equipment like a harness and lifejacket, the club will loan you one for practice and trialing. Dummies are usually less than \$10. How much have you spent on toys already?

I could go on to describe the skills at Apprentice level—but these fundamentals are all still there: only duration and difficulty are increased.

If you aren't skilled in teaching recalls, retrieves and heels, Youtube has tons of training examples. Ten minutes every day will get you there. I start working every puppy with a "drop" command the day they get home so years later they are ready for Courier. Last year my four year old girl Cabby happened on some chicken bones during a walk on garbage day. I noticed and gave her a "drop" command. She obeyed. Life saving? Maybe.

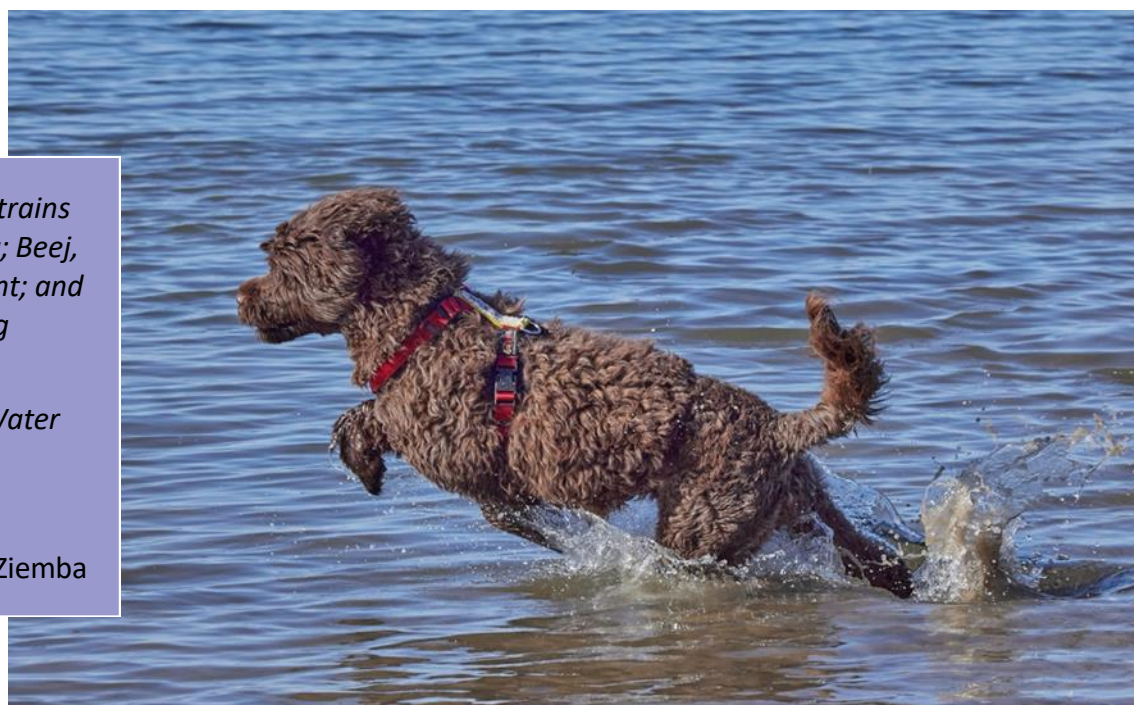
Working with your dog in the water—whether it's at the ocean or in simulating their working tasks back in the 1800's—is a joy-filled experience for you both.

Contact the club for assistance. Water practice starts in May!

George Ziemba owns and trains Bodie, Working Water Dog; Beej, Courier Water Dog Excellent; and Cabby, Working Water Dog Excellent

Here's Cabby, doing that Water Dog thing

Photo courtesy of George Ziemba



Water Work Season starts April 13 with Introduction to Water Work: Dry Dock Workshop!

April 13, 8AM-2PM: Tailored Dog Training, 4475 Treat Blvd, Suite "K", Concord, CA
Get ready for summer and water work season!

Workshop registration deadline Weds, April 9, 2025, 6 PM.

Visit <https://pawcnc.org/event/introduction-to-water-work-dry-dock-workshop/> for more information and to sign up.

Owner-Handlers: Take Inspiration from Candice Duclos and Scandal

The W&C Interview

Do you ever think about showing your dog in the conformation ring, but you hesitate because 1) hiring a professional handler is expensive and 2) showing your dog yourself, as an Owner-Handler, seems crazy: arduous, unknown, unattainable? Read on to appreciate the inspiring story of Candice Duclos and Scandal (MBIS MRBIS MBISS GCHP Allegiance How to Get Away with Murder for Lawless RI FDC BCAT CGCA TKN ATT JWD).

Candice's day job is a senior attorney for the Prosecutor's Office / Sheriff's Office in Seattle, WA. But on the weekend, look out! She puts on her Owner-Handler superhero cape. Scandal has been the #1 Owner-Handled PWD for 2022, 2023, 2024 (as well as #1 OH Working Dog) and is currently #1 Owner-Handled PWD for 2025—even though she is currently semi-retired and not actively participating in the AKC's [National Owner-Handler Series](#) (NOHS).

The results for Team Scandal from 2024 and 2025 go way beyond the NOHS, and they have truly been something to celebrate. Highlights of their recent accomplishments: In 2024, Scandal was #2 PWD Breed & All-Breed and #1 Bitch; winner of PWDCA Top 20; Best of Breed at AKC National Championship (Orlando); winner of the most Best in Shows by a PWD (she had five in 2024 and boasts six in total). In 2025, Scandal has only been shown for half of a weekend and at Westminster, and still she is currently #2 Breed, #3 All-Breed, and Best of Breed winner at Westminster.



Candice and Scandal get ready for the really big show!

All photos courtesy of Candice Duclos

Wavies and Curlies recently enjoyed a chat with Candice and Scandal.

W&C: Everyone wants to know, Candice: what was it like to show Scandal at Westminster—and win Best of Breed?

Candice: This year it was an absolute dream! This was our fourth trip to Westminster, and it had a much different feel than in years past. The first year we went, Scandal was just a baby. I entered her on a whim because I wanted to experience showing my own dog at Westminster. I was met with all sorts of criticism: she was too young; I was far too inexperienced; overall it was just a terrible idea. I'm a stubborn person, and critique only made me want to do it more. Lots of mentoring and boot camp moments at the shows leading up to Westminster paid off when Scandal was Best Opposite. The following year we went back, but Scandal was in the midst of a life meltdown due to a prior bad ring experience, and it was a complete disaster. Most people watching thought Scandal was just being a naughty PWD, but I knew it was because she was terrified. I was both mortified and heartbroken for my girl. The following year we went back to redeem ourselves. Scandal didn't receive any ribbons, but she showed beautifully, and I couldn't have been prouder considering how the year prior had gone.

Then we have this year! We almost didn't make it to NYC because of weather embargos and flights not accepting dogs. We literally got out on the only flight allowed out from Seattle to NYC in several days. I also was prepared to cancel the trip if Scandal came into season because we wanted to breed her. Somehow all the stars aligned, and we made it there. My attitude was so different: I was thankful to be there, I knew it was basically Scandal's retirement show, and I had talked my mom into accompanying me. I went in with no expectations; my only goal was to have fun while showing off my girl one last time. I hoped to get a ribbon, but I didn't ever dream it would be for Best of Breed! When the judge walked over to me while doing her placements and told me to go to the front of the line, I literally said, "Excuse me?!" I thought I was out of the running since she placed me last. It was an incredible moment I will never forget!

W&C: That is such an awesome story! How did you get into the breed?

Candice: My first show dog was a Newfoundland. At the time I got her I didn't even know that dog shows existed. Her breeders asked me if I would be willing to try to show her and introduced me to the world of dog shows. At the newf ring I met my friend, Laura, who later would get her first Portuguese Water Dog, Luciano. I got to spend time with her and Lu at shows and fell in love with him and the breed: the personality, the sass, the crazy antics, the sweet snuggles. Laura introduced me to Lu's breeder and I was later able to go visit puppies, that I of course swore I wasn't getting. Less than a year later I had my first PWD (Riot) and I haven't looked back!

W&C: How did you pick Scandal as a puppy? Were you looking for a show quality dog?

Candice: Scandal was sired by my male, Riot. It was his first litter so I was very excited to watch the puppies grow up. Scandal was a favorite of mine from the beginning: she was always easy to find in the litter because of her unique markings, and she had so much personality. I swore I was not getting a puppy from the litter. In fact, I had given my pick to Amy Lane, who co-bred the litter and mentored Eva Muschek, who had whelped the litter. Amy took home two girls to decide which to keep and continued to send me updates and photos. When they were just shy of 8 weeks old Amy called and told me that if I didn't come get Scandal, I might regret it forever. I had a plane ticket hours later and went to get my girl the following week. I am so very thankful to Amy for telling me I needed this girl, my most special and sassy girl, and the friendships and experiences she has brought me.



W&C: What made you decide to handle Scandal yourself? How did you get started showing your own dog? How did you learn to do it?

Candice: Scandal was handled to her championship by a professional handler friend who was campaigning my male, Riot (Scandal's father). When Scandal was just shy of a year old I decided that if I was going to attend all the shows anyway I would really like to show her and just have some fun.

I had shown Riot for a very brief time when he was young and obtained his CH. My first goal was just to play in the OHS ring and see what we could do. I was fairly clueless, but I was having a good time! I was fortunate to have friends—both professional handlers and non-professional handlers—who would give me tips and feedback each weekend, and I began to set some goals. The feedback and mentoring really ramped up after I entered Scandal in Westminster for the first time in 2022. A professional handler friend who was not impressed with my decision essentially put me in boot camp. She ripped apart my handling weekend after weekend and showed me ways to improve. It was not easy nor was it always fun, but I would not be the handler I am today without all of her (and other's) criticism and assistance.

In 2023, I decided that Scandal was far too good to be handled by me and passed her off to my professional-handler friend so that (I believed) she could see her full potential. Unfortunately their second weekend together, at one of the biggest shows of the year, Scandal got off her leash in the group ring, went to leave the ring and was tackled to the ground by several strangers. She seemed fine, but we later discovered that this event had some serious and long-lasting effects—primarily that she was absolutely terrified of being in the show ring. After months and months of trying it became apparent that Scandal wasn't going to forgive Tiffany the handler, and I took her back. Even with me, Scandal had a tough time. I didn't really know how to get her over it, but I was determined not to give up. We went to shows weekend after weekend. I made a complete ass out of myself to ensure she had fun. We had some big progress and then big setbacks, but it eventually all came together. During that time I focused solely on Scandal's happiness and let my handling go to the wayside, probably creating a few bad habits along the way.

W&C: What advice would you give to an owner who is interested in handling?

Candice: First and foremost: you can do it! You must be willing and able to be your own biggest critic, and you have to be willing to seek out and receive harsh and honest criticism. It may seem mean, but most people really do want to help. If you mess up or have a bad moment, don't be embarrassed—I can assure you it's already happened before you. Don't give up, practice and experience are things that only come with time—enjoy the journey! I promise it is worth the heartache and the end results and wins are so incredibly rewarding when you do it yourself.

W&C: Do you do your own grooming too?

Candice: I currently do all of my own grooming. Originally, I had my PWDs groomed by the pros with far more skill. I would sit and watch and ask questions while trying to soak it all in. That last person who groomed Scandal was my good friend Tiffany. In the fall of 2023 she had to have knee replacement surgery and was going to be out for a time. Knowing this I had a very down and dirty grooming lesson with Tiff trimming one side and me trying to replicate it on the other side, while she provided me feedback and tips. The next few times I did all of the trimming and had her critique what I had missed or messed up. From that point forward I took over Scandal's grooming. One thing that has really helped me is having someone stack her and move her so that I can see how she looks and how her hair moves before finalizing her trim each time. When we were campaigning, I would trim her a bit every time she got on the table.



W&C: How did you balance all the work of showing Scandal with your busy professional life?

Candice: It was a challenge for sure! I work full time+ and am on-call 24/7 for the detectives I work with. Last year I was very fortunate to be given a lot of flexibility with my schedule to chase my dreams. I used some vacation time and other times worked on the go. This commitment required getting up early, working during the day when I wasn't showing or grooming, and wrapping things up at night back at the hotel. There were many weekends I drove long hours to get home so that I could be at the office the next day. It was certainly exhausting, but I also realize how fortunate I am to be given the ability to do what I did last year.

W&C: What's next for you and Scandal?

Candice: Scandal is now, for the most part, retired from the conformation ring. I'm sure she will make a few appearances over time, but we are done with campaigning and traveling all over the country. It has been nice to take a bit of a break and regroup after the whirlwind year we had. Other things on

the horizon for us include puppies at some point, more water work, and venturing into some sports we haven't had the time to try to include barn hunt, nose work & agility.



While W&C was chatting with Candice, W&C's roving reporter, Reporter Rover, scored an interview with Scandal:

RR: Scandal, you and I have been in the ring together and it's always great to see you, girrrl. Congratulations on your huge wins this year! Let's spill some tea. What was it like to have your mom as your handler? I bet it was great!

Scandal: Oh man, I am obsessed with my mom, but don't tell her that! She loves me so much and I have her trained perfectly. I mean, I know she thinks she is the one who has done all the work, but let's be honest, I'm the star of this show. She also lets me get away with far more than anyone else, so yeah, mom as my handler is the best!

RR: Do you like being in the show ring? Any special moves or tricks you'd care to share?

Scandal: Oh my gosh, running around with my mom, showing myself off and getting all the snacks—I mean, does it get any better than that?!

My favorite move is really anything that keeps mom on her toes. When I'm feeling extra sassy I love to throw myself on the ground, put all four legs in the air and do a little wiggle. I mean how good does that feel?! Plus the crowd totally loves it! Let's be real, I know what I'm doing, but a perfect statue of a show dog is so borrrrrring. Sometimes I just like to make things interesting. Plus I have to remind mom that I'm the one actually in charge: it's all about me!

RR: How did you get to Orlando and Westminster? Those places are a long way from Washington.

Scandal: Oh dude, I just take a plane! I have so many air miles. I kind of have a fit at the airport, because well, I'm a bit dramatic and I like to make mom feel bad. But once I'm on the plane, smoooooth sailing. Mom grabs me on the other side and I'm well rested and ready to rumble!

RR: What was après-show like? Were there parties?

Scandal: I know most people won't believe this, but I'm not much of a party girl—wild, right? My fav thing to do after a show is go back to my hotel, stretch out in my king bed with all my fav things, and eat the good goods! I have mom totally trained: lambs, cheeseburgers and during pumpkin season a pumpkin pie shake! Delish!! Add some tormenting of mom and you have a pretty perfect night!

RR: Have you ever watched Best in Show?

Scandal: No—I think mom is holding out on me!

RR: Where did you get so many lambkins?

Scandal: Are they not the best?! I love my lambies more than any other toy. I sleep with them, nibble on them, shake the hell out of them and cart them everywhere I go! Like I said, I have mom trained so she makes sure my lamb supply is never lacking. I get one for every holiday, every big trip and, well, just for being my adorable self. Mom is constantly on the hunt for new ones that I don't have.



RR: How do you keep your figure? What kinds of treats do you like?

Scandal: Duuuude, the struggle is real! Sometimes mom puts me on a diet; maybe someone should tell her to go on a diet! I'm just naturally thicc. I have good taste, what can I say? My fav snacks for shows are string cheese—but only Frigo, the other kinds are disgusting—and steak or chicken. After the shows I'll take whatever you got: cheeseburgers, more steak, mom's leftovers, I'm really not that picky. I don't mind french fries but the meat has to be gone or I'm not accepting some substandard carb! During fall pumpkin custard shakes are a MUST! Do not sleep on those!

RR: The most common PWD lewk in the ring is black and curly. Did you find that, being a different color, you had an easier or harder time with judges? (Asking for a friend...)

Scandal: I mean I really don't know....Everyone told mom I wouldn't do as well because I'm a girl and was black and white with funny markings. They even told mom she should dye me—OMG, these people are crazy! I had to prove them wrong and boy did I ever! I think my markings make me memorable, along with my sassy personality!

RR: I see you're rocking a lion clip. How do you explain this style to non-PWDs?

Scandal: I just roll my eyes and remind them I'm not a doodle, I'm the real thing!

IN OUR HOUSE, WE
NARRATE THE DOGS
THOUGHTS



In Loving Memory, Across the Rainbow Bridge



In the following pages we honor some of our members' dogs who have left us in the past months. If you would like to memorialize a dog in the newsletter, please contact the Editor at petportraitsbycheri@gmail.com.

MAGIC

Asta's Moonlight Magic CGC, RN, RA, RE, BN, CD, TKA, TKP, TKE, ATD, THD, TDIA, TDIAOV, MF-N

November 12, 2012 to October 4, 2024

Loved by Paula Li and David Burke

Every dog lover who has had more than one dog in their life has one that they claim is / was their best. Magic was such a dog for us. She came to us from Matthew Davis and Bill Waters, the last of the litter, a bitty little thing. We are totally indebted and grateful to them for offering us such a healthy happy dog, which she was all her life. She grew to be a strong performer and therapy dog, earning a total of 14 titles, including being the very first Portuguese Water Dog to earn a Trick Dog Performer title nationwide. She accompanied us everywhere we went and was our best friend for her whole life. We had to say goodbye to her about a month before her 12th. Birthday. She is never gone from our hearts and definitely will never be forgotten.





RAFA

GCH CH Maritimo Rafaga Brillante VCD2 UD RE AX AXJ OF SWM SHDE THD MWD GROM

February 22, 2013 to December 21, 2024

Loved by Don and Barbara Niemann

We lost our beloved Rafa to hemangio just short of his 12th birthday. Rafa came to us from Judy Berger's Bacchus and Jill Roudebush's Sky. He soon validated his PWD lineage, confidently swimming in our pool at 15 weeks and earning a Junior Water Dog certificate at six months. Rafa brought us endless joy with his exuberance and enthusiasm. He thrived on activity, whether ceaselessly retrieving a ball and the ducks from the PWDCNC water trials or earning multiple titles in both conformation and performance venues. He delighted in water, conformation, and tracking/scent work where his talents and motivation were best displayed. A true dog for all seasons, Rafa also was a titled therapy dog, who could enliven even the most withdrawn elderly patients.



We grieve for the loss of our special boy, our devoted companion of twelve too short years. Although he leaves a void in our lives that can never be filled, we hope our consolation will be reuniting with him and our other special water dogs over the Rainbow Bridge.



JACK

Roseknoll's Jack Of All Trades VCD1 BN RA TDX OA OAJ OF DCAT SWN SCA FTI SROM AWD

May 15, 2015 to June 15, 2024

A Tribute by Janis Welsh

Jack was the sweetest boy who ever came in to our lives. He was all about the love! It was a shock that he passed away so suddenly, hemangiosarcoma. He was at home with my husband on the couch when he passed.

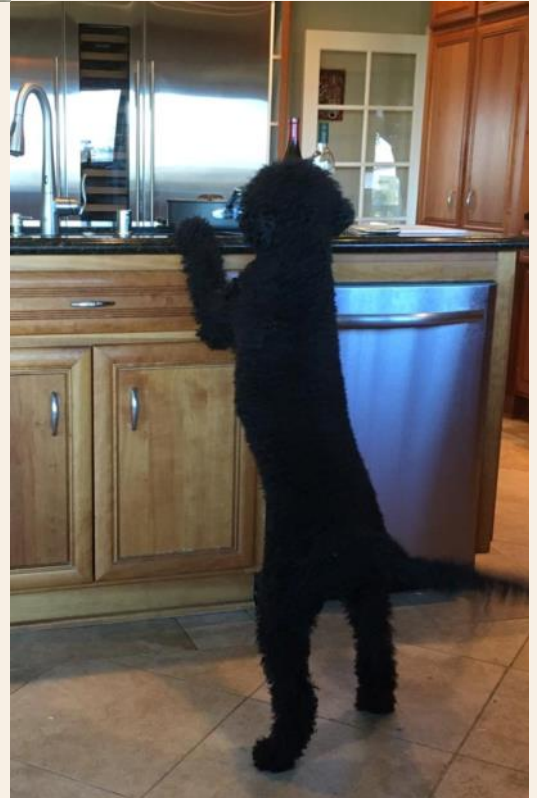


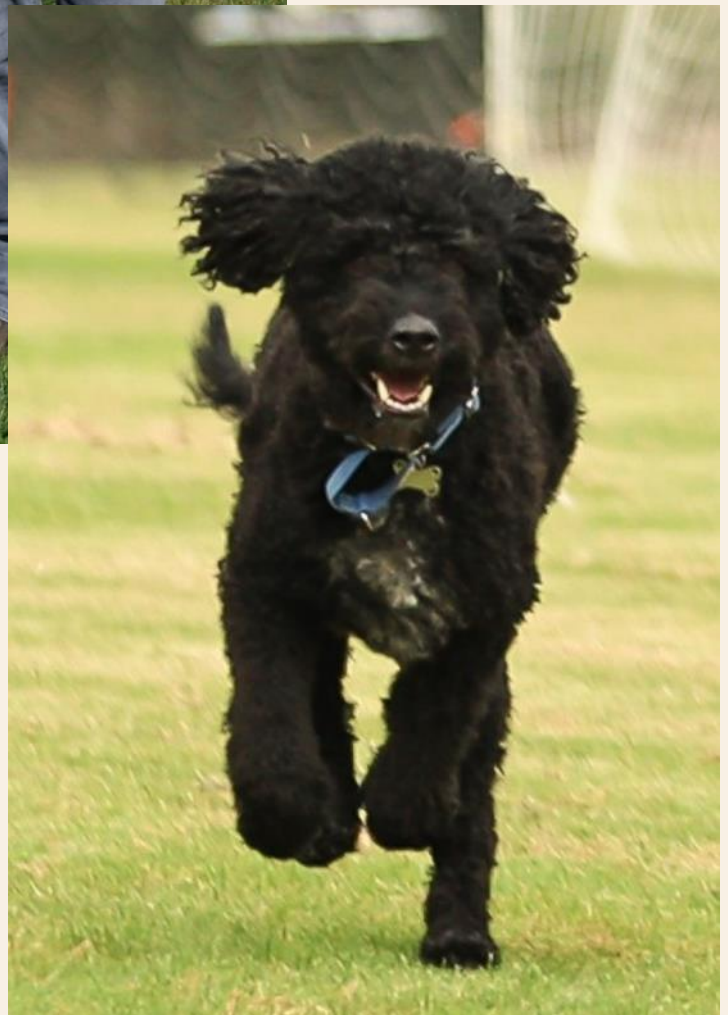
He fully lived up to his name as a Jack of all Trades. Tracking Dog Excellent, Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scentwork and Water: he did it all. But he was not the easiest dog to train. Jack would melt if I even raised an eyebrow of disapproval, so training required patience and endless positive reinforcement. Jack rose to many stellar heights at shows. He earned Scentwork High in Trial at the PWD National Specialty with my husband. It was the first time my husband ever entered a show ring and he had never practiced, but Jack knew his job!

He also was Obedience High in Trial at the 2022 PWDCNC Regional Specialty.

What Jack loved the most was long hikes and afternoons sleeping on the deck. His gentle nature shone through on many occasions. When he would come to work with me, young children would run to him like a magnet, and he would let them hug him and do his sit, down, stand tricks at their command. When we found a crippled old cat and brought her into our home, Jack was the one to curl up and share a cushion with "Lucy." He was a doting "Uncle" to Violet when she arrived and never let her out of his sight. All that said, he was also very naughty. We lost more steaks, butter dishes, lunch bags and cheese trays to his counter surfing. He never let an open dishwasher go unchecked nor could he walk past the garbage compactor without pressing the open step to see what was inside to eat. All my coat pockets are chewed out because I had left a treat crumb in the pocket.

Now when I come in the door, I still expect to have him doing his happy you're home dance with a ROOOO song to greet me. Oh Jack, you are missed so very much.





2024 Officers and Board of Directors

March 1, 2024 — February 28, 2025

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VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Souza

TREASURER: Janis Welsh

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Club Committee Chairs

BREEDER REFERRAL: open

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

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Wavies & Curlies

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suggestions for the newsletter. Please email us at
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